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LUDLOW RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer Of Health

for the year

1959

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health:

William Hall, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D. Obst. R.C.O.G., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector:

Ronald F. Saunders, Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Additional Public Health Inspectors.

G.S. Banks, Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

L.D. Cowell, Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

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LUDLOW RURAL DISTRICT.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year ending 31st December, 1959.

LUDLOW.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Report on the Health of your District for the year 1959.

The Birth-rate standardised for the district was 17.58, a figure rather higher than that for the Country as a whole which was 16.5, and higher than the corresponding figure for the County of Salop which was 16.88.

The Death-rate also standardised for the district was 11.41 and falls between the national figure of 11.6 and the rate for the County which was 11.32.

Notifications of Infectious Disease totalled 255 against 133 in 1958, the increase being due to a greater incidence of measles. One case of typhoid fever was notified during the year, but enquiries and investigations were made immediately into the outbreak, as a result of which prompt measures were able to be taken to prevent a spread of infection. A fuller account of the outbreak and the measures taken for its control are given on page 25 of the report.

The year 1959 has seen considerable progress made in two of the three major water schemes, which the Council are providing. The availability of piped water must be one of the greatest incentives to property owners of all classes to improve their property and with the discriminate use of grants it should be possible to provide many rural properties with the amenities normally possessed by urban properties but often denied to rural. A domestic hot water supply adequate ablutionary facilities and water-borne sanitation should no longer be amenities out of reach of the villagers.

Following up the provision of an adequate water supply, every effort should be made by the Council as a Housing Authority to bring about the improvement of those properties which structurally justify improving and are so situated as to be capable of being supplied with water. In considering the improvement of property, the greatest care must always be taken that the property justifies improving and that the improvement is not merely carried out as an alternative to demolition. Economically such a procedure would be a poor bargain, but in examining property under the standards laid down by the Housing Acts whilst it is a relatively simple matter to say which houses comply and which do not comply, it can be a very difficult matter to say whether a particular property can be made to comply with the standards at reasonable expense, since reasonable expense covers very wide interpretation. Considerable sums of money are often spent improving properties which could more profitably be put towards the building of modern structures, which would have a longer life and over the total period prove more economical in every way. Much can be said in favour of the improvement of property to preserve the character and traditions of a particular locality, but at the same time it is possible to pay too high a price.

My thanks are due to Mr. Saunders and the staff of the Health Department for their willing help at all times, and for providing most of Section C of this Report, and to Mr. Shaw for providing information on the position of the Water Supply Schemes at 31st December, given at the beginning of Section C.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM HALL.

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

GENERAL AND LOCAL STATISTICS.

1959.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

Birth rate	16.5
Still Birth-rate	20.7
Infant Mortality Rate	22.0
Perinatal Mortality Rate	34.2
Death-rate	11.6

VITAL STATISTICS FOR COUNTY OF SALOP.

Birth rate (Standardised)	16.88
Still birth rate	22.49
Infant Mortality rate	20.08
Perinatal Mortality rate	35.36
Death-rate (Standardised)	11.32

STATISTICS FOR LUDLOW RURAL DISTRICT.

Area (in acres)	112,823
Registrar-General's estimate of the population (mid 1959)	13,670
Number of inhabitable houses	4,274
Rateable Value of the District	£115,578
Estimated product of 1d Rate	£454

	M.	F.	Total
Live Births - Legitimate	105	96	201
Illegitimate	3	5	8
Totals	108	101	209

Live Birth-rate per 1,000 of the population = Crude 15.29
= Standardised 17.58

	M.	F.	Total
Still Births - Legitimate	3	-	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	3	-	3

Still Birth-rate per 1,000 total births = 14.15

Deaths of Infants under one year of age -	Number of deaths	Rate per 1,000 live births
(a) All infants per 1,000 total livebirths	4	19.14
(b) Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	3	14.93
(c) Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	1	125.00
(d) Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks	3	14.35
(e) Deaths of Infants under 1 week	3	14.35
(f) Perinatal Mortality	28.30	per 1,000 total live and stillbirths

	M.	F.	Total
Deaths	90	76	166

Death rate per 1,000 of the population = Crude 12.14
= Standardised 11.41

Population.

The Registrar-General's estimated figure of the population in the Rural District at the 30th June, 1959 was 13,670. This was 20 less than the estimated figure for the previous year.

Births.

Live births numbered 209 (Legitimate - 201, Illegitimate - 8) giving a 'Crude' birthrate of 15.29. Applying the comparability factor of 1.15 the corrected birth-rate becomes 17.58.

Still Births.

There were three still births and this gives a still birth rate of 14.15 against the rate for the Country as a whole which is 20.7. The figures upon which the still birth-rate is calculated are so small that the rate has little significance.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age.

Four deaths were reported of children under the age of one year. This gives an Infantile Mortality Rate of 19.14. The Infantile Mortality Rate for the country is 22.0. Again the figures are too small for the rate to be significant.

Deaths.

The total number of deaths registered was 166 (male 90, female 76). This gives a 'Crude' Death-rate of 12.14 when the comparability factor of 0.94 is applied the comparable death rate becomes 11.41. Figures showing the chief causes of deaths will be found at the end of the Report.

Natural Increases of Population.

The number of live births exceed the total number of deaths by 43.

SECTION B.

Personal Health Services.

These Services are provided by the County Council under the authority of the National Health Service Act, 1946.

Care of Mothers and Young Children.

(a) Child Welfare Centres.

Child Welfare Centres are provided in Ludlow and Cleobury Mortimer, and are held as follows:-

Cliftonville, Dinham, Ludlow	:	Every Monday
* East Hamlet Hall, Ludlow	:	Every Thursday
Parish Hall, Cleobury Mortimer	:	1st and 3rd Wednesdays in each month

Attendances at these Welfare Centres during 1959 were as follows:-

Welfare Centre	Made first attendance when under 1 year	Total Cases	Total Attendance
Ludlow (Dinham)	88	207	1,038
Ludlow (*East Hamlet)	19	21	254
Cleobury Mortimer	28	132	657

* Opened 11th June, 1959.

An ante-natal clinic is also held at the Ludlow Child Welfare Centre every Monday, being conducted by one of the County Council's Assistant Medical Officers. The Ludlow District Nurse-Midwives hold their own ante-natal clinic at the Centre on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday afternoons each month.

It is impossible to give any indication in the table above of how many of the children attending the Ludlow Centre are children from the Rural District, and one must assume that the majority are from the Borough.

(b) Care of Unmarried Mothers and Illegitimate Children.

A Moral Welfare Worker employed by the Hereford Diocesan Association to whom an annual grant is paid by the County Council, is based in Ludlow and works throughout the Rural District. The Worker concerned is Miss G. Leslie of 144, Corve Street, Ludlow. (Tel.No.Ludlow 257.)

The County Council also gives substantial grants to two Mother and Baby Homes affiliated to the Lichfield Diocese, but within the County, to which cases from any County District may be admitted.

The County Council also has contractual arrangements with Herefordshire for the admission of cases to the Hereford Mother and Baby Home.

(c) Distribution of Welfare Foods.

People living in Ludlow Rural District normally obtain National Welfare Foods (National Dried Milk, Orange Juice, Codliver Oil and Vitamin Tablets) at the County Councils Welfare Centre, Dinham, Ludlow on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday Mornings. For those people living some distance from Ludlow arrangements exist whereby National Welfare Foods are distributed by Voluntary Workers from distribution points in the following districts:- Clee Hill, Clee St. Margaret, Cleobury Mortimer, Craven Arms and Munslow.

Midwifery.

The County Council employ a total of eleven midwives in the Ludlow Rural District and two of this number also operate in the Borough. Throughout the whole area they undertake district nursing as well as midwifery duties.

The following table gives details of the midwifery work carried out by these midwives during 1959:-

Nursing District	Total Confinements	Total Domiciliary Visits	Attendances on Discharged Institutional Cases	
			Cases	Visits
Burford	8	248	6	36
Church Stretton	23	732	23	102
Clee Hill *	8	237	9	40
Cleobury Mortimer	17	521	25	87
Craven Arms	20	589	9	27
Ludlow	31	886	72	152
Munslow	13	374	10	44
Stoke St. Milborough	3	82	21	55

(* Covered by Nurse for Burford Area.)

The Nursing Districts comprising groups of parishes, do not conform to the Rural District Boundary and the figures given above therefore in some cases (Church Stretton and Ludlow) will include many cases from outside the Ludlow Rural District.

Health Visiting.

Two full-time Health Visitors are employed by the County Council in the Ludlow Rural District and one of these (Miss G.L. Ward) who is based in Ludlow also undertakes health visiting in the Borough.

Home Nursing.

As stated above the midwives employed by the County Council in the Rural District undertake the home nursing duties.

Only in the Borough of Ludlow itself does the County Council employ a Home Nurse solely to undertake these duties.

Cases attended and visits made during 1959 were as follows:-

Nursing District	Home Nursing Cases	Visits
Burford	36	501
Church Stretton	346	4933
Clee Hill *	47	799
Cleobury Mortimer	116	1468
Craven Arms	144	1957
Ludlow	158	4444
Munslow	83	960
Stoke St. Milborough	40	1009

*(Covered by Nurse for Burford Area.)

Vaccination and Immunisation.

Protection is offered, in particular to pre-school children, school children and in special circumstances to others, against Smallpox, Whooping Cough, Diphtheria, Tetanus and Poliomyelitis and to thirteen-year old children against Tuberculosis.

The immunisation procedure is carried out in many cases by General Medical Practitioners, and by School Medical Officers in Clinics and Schools.

The tables below give the numbers of children from the Rural District who have availed themselves of the facilities offered.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION - 1959.

		County Council Medical Officers	General Practitioners	Totals
Diphtheria Primary		27	138	165
Boosters		20	43	63
Whooping Cough Primary		38	125	163
Smallpox Primary	Performed	23	78	101
	Successful	22	76	98
Tetanus Primary		27	126	153
Poliomyelitis	1st & 2nd Injections	1072	121	1193
	3rd Injections	2948	51	2999

B. C. G. V A C C I N A T I O N 1 9 5 9.

School	Consent Forms Given Out	Refusals	Number of Consents Presented	Number of Children Skin-Tested	Skin Test Readings		Number Vaccin-ated	Re-Mantoux	
					Pos.	Neg.		Pos.	Neg.
BROMDON FARM	4	-	4	3	1	2	2	4	-
MILLICHOPE	36	2	34	34	11	21	21	9	-
MUNSLOW	4	-	4	3	-	3	3	2	-
ONIBURY	8	1	7	6	-	6	6	9	-
STOKESAY	41	-	41	38	2	34	34	17	-
CLEOBURY MORTIMER MOD.	92	8	84	77	16	52	52	86	1
CITY OF COVENTRY	61	2	59	59	4	55	55	52	2
DIDDLEBURY	19	1	18	17	6	11	11	5	-

Ambulance Service.

The Central Ambulance Station is in Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury (Tel. No. Shrewsbury 6331.)

There is a local Ambulance Depot in Ludlow where three ambulances and two dual purpose vehicles are based.

Drivers are on call and can be called out at any time during the day or night.

One dual purpose vehicle is kept at a garage in Craven Arms for local convenience.

During 1959 these six vehicles made 3,251 journeys carrying 8,418 patients a total distance of 148,560 miles.

Arrangements for calling out ambulances are normally made through doctors and hospitals but in emergency calls from anyone are put through to the Central Ambulance Station and appropriate arrangements made.

Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care.

(a) All home nurses and midwives hold a small supply of minor articles of nursing equipment such as hot water bottles, air rings, bed pans and feeding cups, for loan to patients being nursed at home.

(b) The treatment of Tuberculosis falls to Regional Hospital Boards to provide in the way of Sanatoria and Chest Clinics, but the preventive and after care side of the work is shared between the Hospital Boards and Local Health Authorities. The County Council for their share provide open-air Shelters where required. They also join with Regional Boards in making from time to time local arrangements for Miniature Mass Radiography Surveys, and through their Health Visitors undertake a considerable amount of follow-up work with patients. Extra nourishment may in necessitous cases be provided.

(c) Arrangements are made under this section for the convalescence of persons not requiring special medical or nursing care.

(d) Through their Mental Health Officers and Health Visitors the County Council are responsible for the supervision in their own homes of mentally handicapped persons and also for helping general medical practitioners to secure hospital treatment for those persons who become mentally unbalanced.

Domestic Help.

The County Council provides a fairly comprehensive Domestic Help Service through branch offices.

The greater part of this area is served from the Ludlow Home Help Office which is open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons. A small section in the north, however, is served from the Church Stretton Home Help Office which opens on Monday mornings and Thursday afternoons.

During the year ended 31st December 1959 the services of the County Council's Home Helps were made available in 22 homes. In 17 cases the help was provided for the benefit of aged and chronic sick persons, in two cases help was needed on account of temporary illness, in a further home a domiciliary confinement had occurred and two post operative cases were helped.

Hospital Service.

In addition to the Services provided by the County Council under the provisions of the National Health Service Act, the Hospital and Specialist Services provided by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board must be briefly mentioned.

The District is served principally by the hospitals under the No. 15 Hospital Management Committee centred at the Royal Salop Infirmary, Shrewsbury. The Ludlow and District Hospital and East Hanlet Hospital serve local needs and Specialist Clinics or Out-Patient Sessions are held at these hospitals as follows:-

Clinic or Out-Patient Session.	East Hanlet Hospital	Ludlow & District Hospital	Consultant
Orthopaedic	2nd & 4th Mondays 1-30 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.		
Obstetric & Gynaecological	-	Wednesdays 2 p.m.	Mr. S. Burke
Surgical	-	Wednesday fortnightly 9 a.m.	Mr.J.A.Baty
Medical	-	Mondays 2.30 p.m. Wednesday fortnightly 10 a.m.	Dr.A.W.J. Houghton. Dr. W.D. Wallace.
E.N.T.	-	Monday fortnightly 1.30 p.m.	Mr.E.N.Owen
Paediatric	-	Third Tuesday in month 2.0 p.m.	Dr J.C. Macaulay.
Psychiatric	-	Thursdays 2.0 p.m.	Dr. M.J. Brookes.
Radio Therapy	-	1st Saturday in month 10.30 a.m.	Dr. E.J. Richardson

A Chest Clinic is held on the third Tuesday in each month at 11.0 a.m. at the Child Welfare Centre, Dinham, Ludlow. Although this clinic is provided by the Regional Hospital Board it is for convenience held at the County Councils Centre.

Cases from the District are admitted to the Royal Salop Infirmary, The Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital and Copthorne Hospital, whilst a small number of Infectious Diseases requiring hospital care under a paediatrician are admitted to Monkmoor Children's Hospital.

Tuberculosis cases requiring in-patient treatment are admitted to Shirlett Hospital.

Laboratory Facilities.

The Public Health Laboratory at the Royal Salop Infirmary is extensively used for the bacteriological examination of water, milk and ice cream.

Chemical analyses of water samples and sewage effluents are made by the Public Analyst at Chester.

Good Laboratory facilities are very necessary to the work of the Health Department, and I should like to express my thanks to Dr. A.C. Jones of the Shrewsbury Laboratory and his staff for their assistance, in particular perhaps for their invaluable advice when some bacteriological or epidemiological problem arises.

SECTION C.

Environmental Health Services.

The following was the position in connection with the Council's Water Supply Schemes at 31st December, 1959.

1. Water Supply Schemes.

South Eastern Parishes Water Supply Scheme - Contract 2. Work on this scheme was commenced in May 1959. During the year mains were laid in the Parishes of Ashford Carbonell and Ashford Bowdler, and the scheme was approximately 70% completed by the end of the year.

South Eastern Parishes Water Supply Scheme - Contract 3. Work on this scheme commenced in September, 1959. Mains were laid in Ashford Carbonell and Caynham during the year.

Western Area Water Supply Scheme. Tender documents were prepared during the year for Contracts 4 and 5, and tenders were invited in January, 1960.

2. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

(a) Water Supplies.

Purity of Supplies.

The undermentioned samples were taken for bacteriological examination from public supplies in the area.

Source.	Total No. of Samples.	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Birmingham Aqueduct	5	4	1
Bitterley	5	3	2
Burford	4	2	2
Clee Hill	4	4	0
Clee St. Margaret (Council Houses)	4	3	1
Clee St. Margaret Well	3	0	3
Cleobury Mortimer	5	4	1
Coreley	5	5	0
Craven Arms	5	4	1
Culmington	6	5	1
Diddlebury	5	5	0
Hope Bowdler	4	3	1
Longville-in-the-Dale	4	4	0
Middleton	4	3	1
Munslow	6	4	2
Onibury	3	3	0
*Seifton	56	22	34
St. Milburga's Well	3	2	1
Ticklerton	4	2	2
Wall-under-Heywood	4	4	0
	139	86	53

In addition, the following samples were taken from a prospective public supply.

Source.	No. of Samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Cornbrook	23	20	3

These results show that the public supplies are, in the main, satisfactory. The only supply showing consistent pollution was the village well at Clee St. Margaret; here the supply was covered and a pump provided many years ago, but the villagers appear to dislike the pump and obtain their water by means of dipping, the cover being permanently left off.

Some pollution was found at Munslow. Chlorinating plant has now been installed, which should make the supply satisfactory.

The unsatisfactory samples from Bitterley were obtained at the end of the year and investigations were not completed during 1959.

*The unsatisfactory results at Seifton were of samples taken direct from Seifton Pool, or at other points where the water is untreated. Following the take over of the Seifton supply and the installation of chlorinating plant and much rearrangement of pipe lines by the Engineer's Department, many check samples were taken until finally the treated water was found to be of satisfactory bacteriological quality.

The unsatisfactory results obtained from Clee St. Margaret and Ticklerton were due to roof storage tank pollution. Tenbury Rural District Council were informed of the unsatisfactory samples from the Burford supply and during the year a chlorinating plant was installed, which should make conditions satisfactory for the future.

Work was started during the year on the South Eastern Parishes water supply scheme. When completed, this scheme will bring about a much needed improvement in general living conditions in the large area covered by the scheme, viz:- The area lying to the South of the Birmingham Aqueduct.

Similar improved conditions will also result from other schemes, including the large Western Area scheme, work on parts of which will probably start during 1960.

Seventy samples were taken from private supplies. Of these, 54 were unsatisfactory and only 16 satisfactory. Some of these 16 were from supplies which had previously been found to be unsatisfactory, but where the quality of the water had improved after the carrying out of work recommended by the Department. However, the fact has to be faced that some supplies are polluted at source and no matter what work is done, only treatment of the water will produce water of satisfactory bacteriological standard. This, of course, also applies to some of the public supplies, particularly Cleobury Mortimer.

(b) Drainage, Sewerage & Sewage Disposal.

Ashford Carbonell.

Full benefit of the sewerage scheme which was completed in 1958, will not be derived until mains water is available throughout the village. It is expected that this will happen during the coming year.

Clee Hill.

The laying of new sewers and construction of new sewage disposal works progressed during the year. The effect of this scheme is that many more properties will have main sewerage and will be able to have water closets and bathrooms. An opportunity now presents itself for the improvement of many poor class houses in the Lion Lane and Little Isle area. Now that the discharge of virtually crude sewage towards the beautiful little hamlet of Hope Bagot has ceased, a gross nuisance has been eliminated and the standard of purity of a large water course greatly improved.

Private drainage:

Various matters relating to private drainage have been dealt with during the year, including improvements to the means of effluent disposal at a school and also at a public house. Three houses in the Southern part of the district were connected to the Council's sewer in order to abate a nuisance being caused near a public highway.

(c) Refuse Collection & Disposal.

The collection arrangements made a few years ago have continued. The greater part of the area has refuse collected only once in every five weeks. This collection service is inadequate and, as in previous years, complaints have been received. At Burford and Clee Hill collection is made twice every five weeks, whilst at Cleobury Mortimer and Craven Arms there are four collections every five weeks. At the two latter places, despite the irregularity of the collections, the residents appear to be reasonably satisfied.

Towards the end of 1959 the Public Health Committee decided to once again consider the problem of providing an improved collection service. A second vehicle and team of operators would allow all parts of the district to have refuse collected once a fortnight, with Cleobury Mortimer and Craven Arms retaining their present frequency of collection.

Four tips are in use for disposal of refuse, including the new tip at Cleobury Mortimer. Treatments for the control of rats are carried out regularly and, mainly due to the hot summer, extensive treatments had to be given to control flies, especially at the Craven Arms tip.

(d) Rodent Control.

The rat destruction service was maintained and at the end of the year 55 contracts were in force. Arrangements were made during the year for all contracts to expire at the end of the Council's financial year, viz:- 31st March, in future. The change has been made for the sake of administrative convenience.

A large infestation of rats found near Craven Arms during the Autumn appeared to be moving about, but it was tracked down before the end of the year and destroyed. A large area of the district was surveyed during the year, mainly in the Southern and Western parts of the district.

The arrangements made some years ago, whereby the operative, Mr. F. Mear, spends one week every two months at Church Stretton, by arrangement with the Urban District Council, were continued.

(e) Factories & Workshops.

There are a total of 86 factories on the register. Of these, 15 are factories without mechanical power and the remainder, 71, are factories with power. Nine visits were paid during the year. Unsatisfactory conditions were found in four cases and written notices served.

The slaughterhouses in the district are now classed as factories and are subject to the provisions of the Factories Acts.

(f) Inspection by the Public Health Inspectors.

Below is a summary of visits paid by the Public Health Inspectors during the year.

Meat Inspection	550
Housing (Public Health, Housing & Rent Acts.)	542
Food Premises	293
Refuse Collection & Disposal	274
Water Supplies	273
House Allocation	165
Drainage	146
Moveable Dwellings	62
Infectious Diseases	38
Factories & Workshops	9
Air Pollution	8
Knackers Yards	8
Miscellaneous	90
Total...	2458

Mr. G.S. Banks was engaged on full time meat inspection duties.

One hundred and one informal notices were served during the year. Most of the notices were complied with by the end of the year.

3. Housing.

1. Number of inhabitable houses	4274
2. Number of Council houses	449
3. Number of houses completed in 1959:	
(a) Council houses	0
(b) Private houses	5
4. Number of additional houses provided by the conversion of older houses	0
5. Number of Discretionary Improvement Grants applied for	46
Number of Discretionary Improvement Grants granted	44
6. Number of Standard Grants applied for	5
Number of Standard Grants granted	5
7. Number of applications for Council Houses at 31st December, 1959	317
8. Number of houses closed, or demolished	16
9. Number of unfit, or defective, houses rendered fit by informal action under the Public Health or Housing Acts	10

(a) House Allocation.

Work in connection with the allocation of Council houses was continued by the Public Health Inspector's Department.

One hundred and sixty five visits were made to interview applicants and to investigate housing conditions.

The waiting list was reviewed at the end of the year. This review was completed early in January, 1960, the figures now being - Total number of applications 176, including 45 from old people. Percentage of applications from old people - 31%.

Building of the dwellings at Cleobury Mortimer for old people has not yet started , but already there is a substantial number of applications. Undoubtedly, many more applications will be received before the dwellings are built and ready for allocation.

A better opinion of the true housing need in the district will probably be possible when the housing survey of the district has been finished. A programme can then be arranged for the demolition, or closure, of all unfit houses in the district, and the building of whatever new houses may be needed. It is hoped that the housing survey will be completed during 1960.

The Tenancies Committee were called on to allocate 22 dwellings which became vacant as a result of removals during the year. This figure included two old peoples dwellings at Craven Arms.

It has been found that only a very small number of applicants are interested in houses in some parts of the district, for example Coreley, Rushbury and Clee St. Margaret. Demand, or lack of demand in a particular area appears to be closely linked with employment prospects and/or transport facilities, public or private.

(b) Housing Conditions.

Work on housing survey progressed during the year but not at the same pace as in 1958, partly due to the illness during the summer months of Mr. Cowell, who was away for seven weeks. However, one hundred and forty-eight houses were surveyed in the parishes of Boraston, Cold Weston, Heath, Hope Bowdler, Hopton Cangeford, Nash, Rushbury and Stanton Lacy and in the Clee Hill area.

Sixty-nine of the houses were part of an estate being sold to sitting tenants. Much advice was given to these tenants as to various works which would be needed to bring the houses up to standard.

(c) Action under the Housing Acts.

The following is a summary of statutory action taken during the year regarding unfit houses.

Number of houses closed under the terms of Closing Orders.	6
Number of houses closed under the terms of undertakings by owners	10
Number of houses demolished	0
Number of houses made fit and undertakings cancelled	3
Informal Action:	
Number of houses made fit as a result of informal action	10

It is hoped that with the completion of the housing survey much more may be done on the positive side to secure the repair and improvement of dwelling houses throughout the district.

Rent Act, 1957.

Only one application for Certificate of Disrepair was dealt with during the year. One owner asked for a Certificate to be revoked.

Property disrepair is a serious matter on which the Rent Acts, 1954 and 1957 have had very little influence. Some landlords have not repaired houses on which rents have been increased and many tenants have not claimed rights of repair under the Act because the procedure involved is of such complexity as to bewilder nearly everybody.

In fact, it can now be said following several years operation of the Rent Act, 1957, that so far as this district is concerned, the Act has been a complete failure with regard to securing the proper repair of houses.

(e) Moveable Dwellings.

Three caravan sites are licensed and licences are also in force for nine individual caravans.

A site for five caravans at Earls Ditton Lane, Doddington was opened during the year and the owner made application in September for a licence covering a further 15 caravans there. Conditions at this site are quite satisfactory and some of the occupiers have praised the Council for enforcing their standards for caravan sites. A Sub-Committee visited the site after the application had been received for the extra fifteen caravans. A licence will be issued when the Council's requirements have been met. Water supply for the caravans is of excellent bacteriological standard and is so maintained by means of a chlorinating apparatus formerly used for a nearby R.A.F. Camp. Caravans are becoming a greater problem throughout the whole of the country and a Committee, led by Sir Arton Wilson, which has been considering the question produced its report during the year.

Three enquiries have been received during the year regarding the setting up of caravan sites and it seems likely that definite proposals may result later.

The time may be ripe for the Council to consider whether it should purchase land and lay out a caravan site. This is being done by many Local Authorities, including some Rural District Councils and it may be one of the best ways of assisting in controlling the ever increasing number of caravans and ensuring that they are sited and used to the best advantage.

4. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Meat Inspection.

There are still three licensed slaughterhouses operating in the district. In 1959 there was another increase in the numbers of animals slaughtered, but the increase was only about half that which occurred in 1958. This increase was mainly at the premises of the Shropshire Fatstock Society Ltd. at Craven Arms. The number of animals slaughtered was 75,534 as compared with 68,109 in 1958. As can be seen from the graph at the end of this section, the numbers of animals slaughtered and inspected has shown a fairly constant increase since 1953. The 1959 figures show an increase of almost eight times over those of 1953 and nearly three times over those of 1955, the first whole year of slaughtering following decontrol.

There is still a large amount of Sunday and evening work carried out. During parts of the year slaughtering was carrying on until about 9.0 p.m. Regarding the Sunday work, as in previous years, this was shared by the three Inspectors on a rota basis.

Cysticercus Bovis.

Twelve cases of cysticercus bovis were found during the year, all but two of these being found at the premises of the Shropshire Fatstock Society of Craven Arms. Carcases of bovine animals affected withlocalised cysticercus bovis have to be refrigerated at 20° F. for three weeks or at 14° F. for two weeks. The carcases are sent out of the district for refrigeration. The Public Health Department of the appropriate authority is notified in each case. During the year the origin of as many animals as possible has been traced and the Public Health Inspector of the appropriate authority notified. It has been found that a number of cattle have come from farms situated near towns in South Shropshire, where it would seem that they have probably become affected by sewage effluent.

It is thought that as much as is possible at the present time is being done by this Authority by way of inspection, notifications and tracings. It is felt, however, that nationally, much more needs to be done as part of a planned programme to cut the chain of life cycle of cysticercus bovis with a view to eliminating this most objectionable condition. It is considered that such a programme should include compulsory notification and treatment of cases of taenia saginata in humans, as is done in the cases of most infectious diseases.

New Legislation.

The Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958 and The Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958 both came into force on the 1st January, 1959, but Parts II and III and parts of Part IV of the Hygiene Regulations do not take effect until an "appointed day". In this district the Council, after considering the matter and requesting the views of neighbouring local authorities and various organisations, have recommended to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, January 1st, 1962, as the "appointed day".

The Hygiene Regulations cover all matters connected with:-

1. Construction of Slaughterhouses.
2. Equipment.
3. Hygienic Practices.

The prevention of Cruelty Regulations govern mainly the conditions in lairages for animals awaiting slaughter.

The three slaughterhouses were inspected and lists of works sent to the owners of the premises.

Work is already in progress on alterations and improvements at the Abattoir of the Shropshire Fatstock Society and it is expected that these works will be completed in the near future. It is hoped that with the completion of these works, many objectionable practices, and, particularly, the most unsatisfactory storage of inedible offals, will disappear.

No works have been started on the two other slaughterhouses, or proposals submitted, and it would appear that the owners have not yet made up their minds what to do in the matter.

Animals Slaughtered and Carcases Inspected in 1959.

	Cattle (Excluding Cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Totals
Number killed	5036	991	772	42850	25885	75534
Number Inspected	5036	991	772	42850	25885	75534
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercus Bovis.						
Whole carcases condemned	7	20	22	414	47	
Organs or parts condemned	2236	422	9	1982	2098	
Percentage affected	44.54%	44.60%	4.01%	5.59%	8.29%	
Tuberculosis Only.						
Whole carcases condemned	2	1	-	-	2	
Organs or parts condemned	59	21	-	-	673	
Percentage affected	1.21%	2.22%	-	-	2.61%	
Cysticercus Bovis Only.						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	
Organs or parts condemned	12	-	-	-	-	
Percentage affected	0.24%					

Weight of meat condemned:

1. On account of Tuberculosis	12,162 lbs.
2. On account of Cysticercus Bovis	845 lbs.
3. On account of other diseases	68,117 lbs.
	81,124 lbs.

= 36 tons, 4 cwts., 36 lbs.

Total number of animals killed = 75,534.

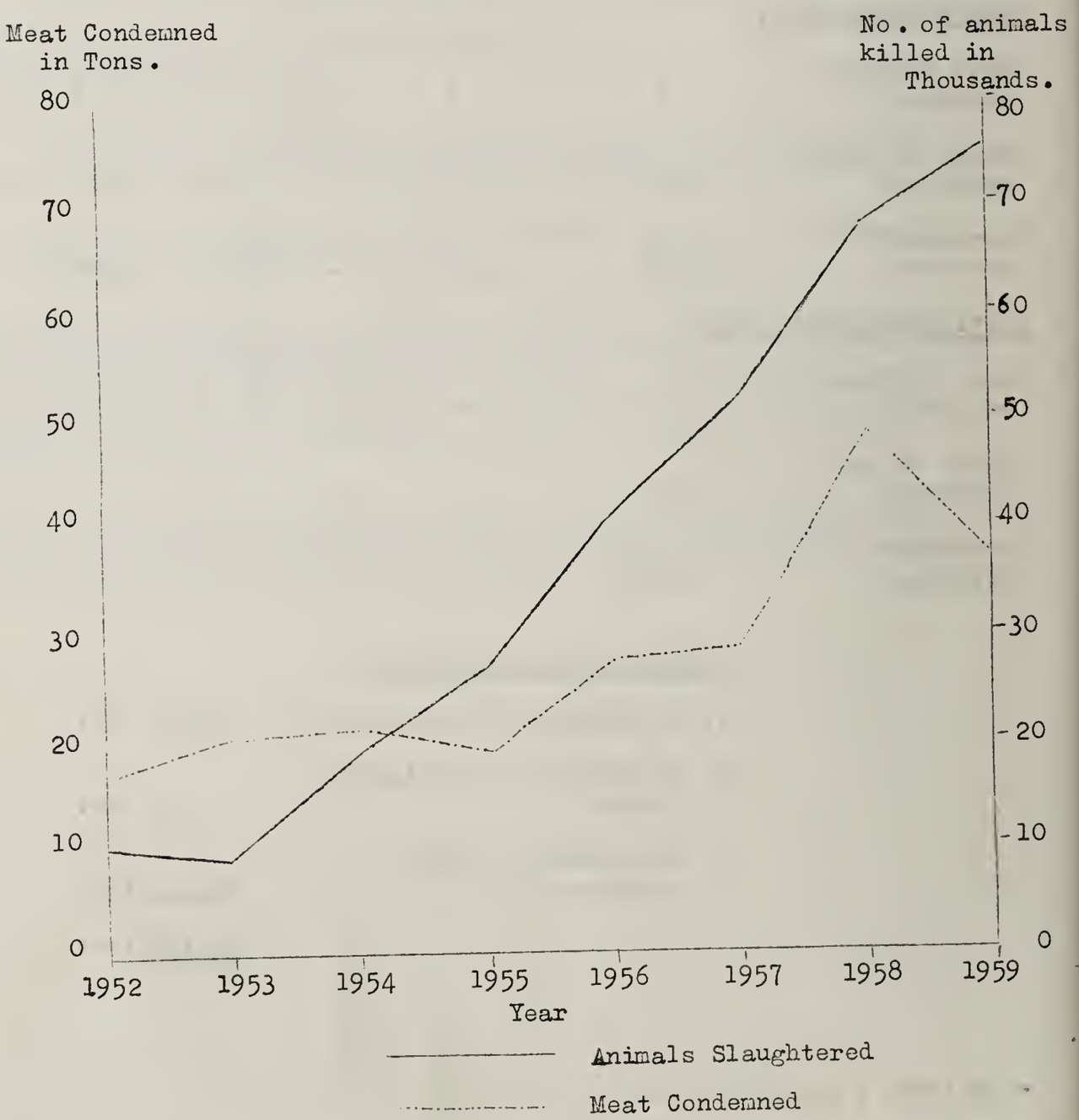
During the year Mr. Banks has continued to carry out full time meat inspection duties at the Craven Arms Abattoir. Grant is paid by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food as an aid to covering the cost of inspection of so called "export meat, i.e. meat sent out of the district.

Tuberculosis.

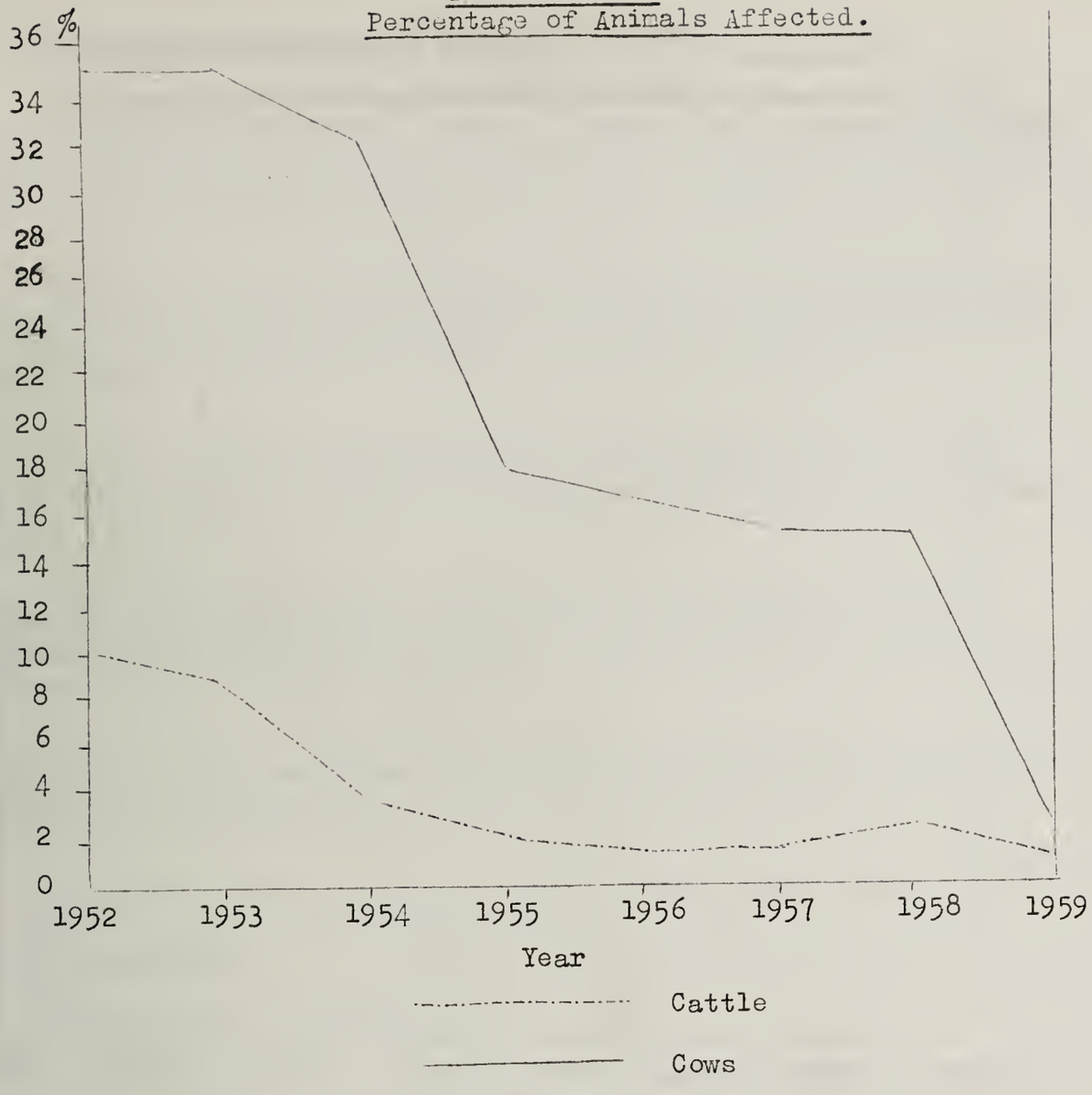
The figures of animals slaughtered and inspected and the graphs showing the incidence of tuberculosis over the past eight years, give striking evidence of the remarkable results obtained from the eradication scheme of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, so far as cattle and cows are concerned.

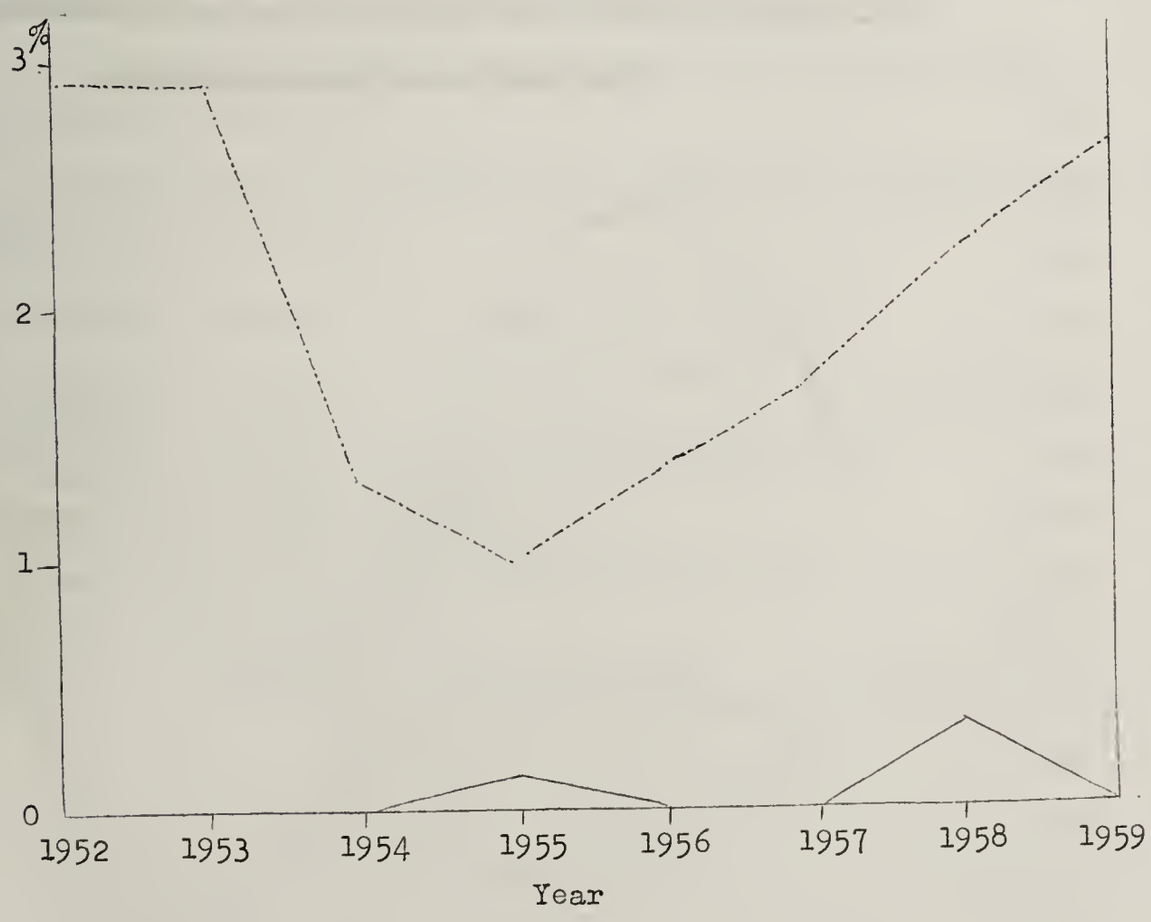
With the work on this scheme virtually completed in this area, it would seem that the disease, which only a few years ago was an absolute scourge of agriculturists, is now almost eliminated. The district is now designated as a tuberculosis free area by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Animals Slaughtered & Meat Condemned.



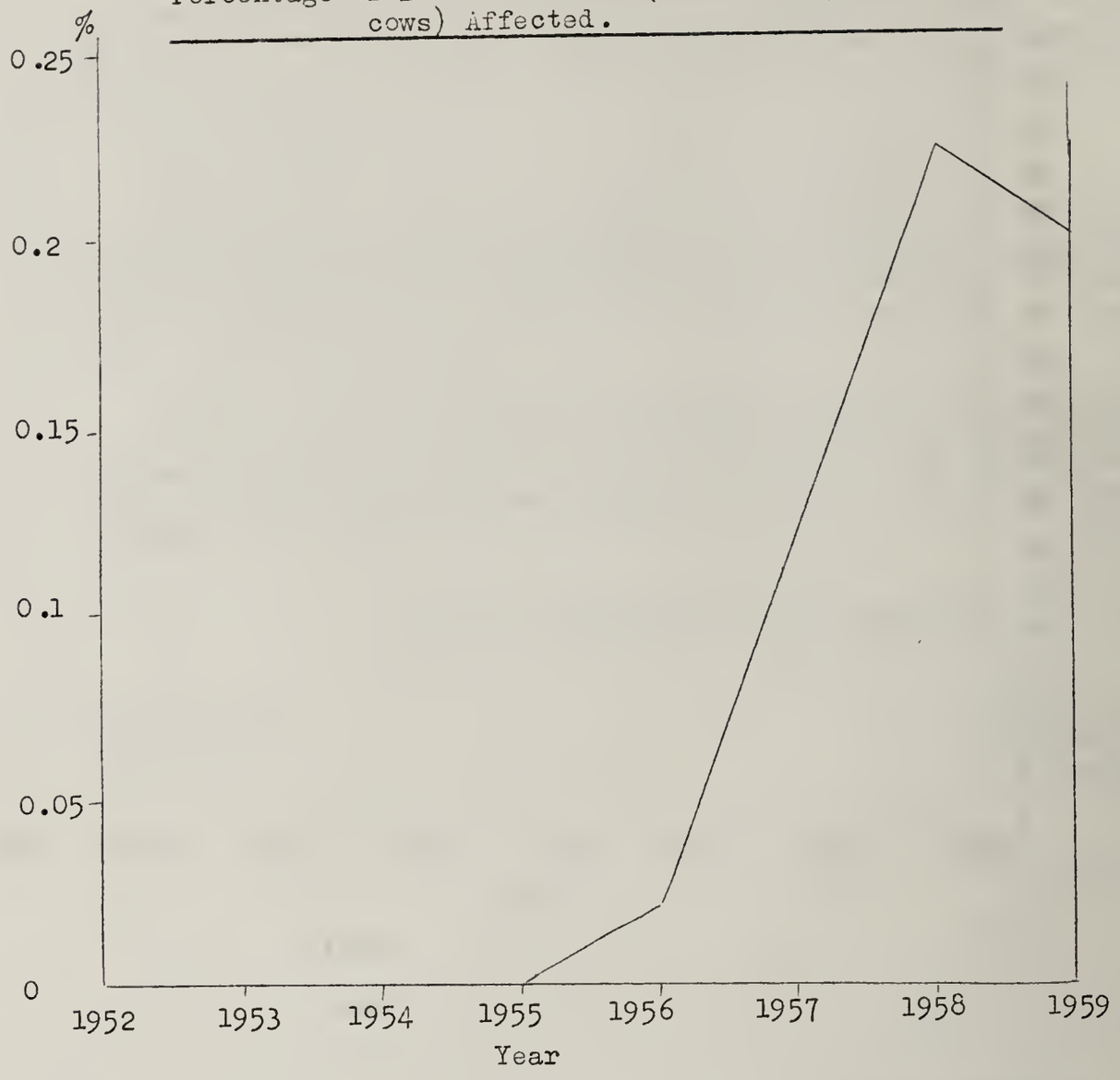
Tuberculosis.
Percentage of Animals Affected.





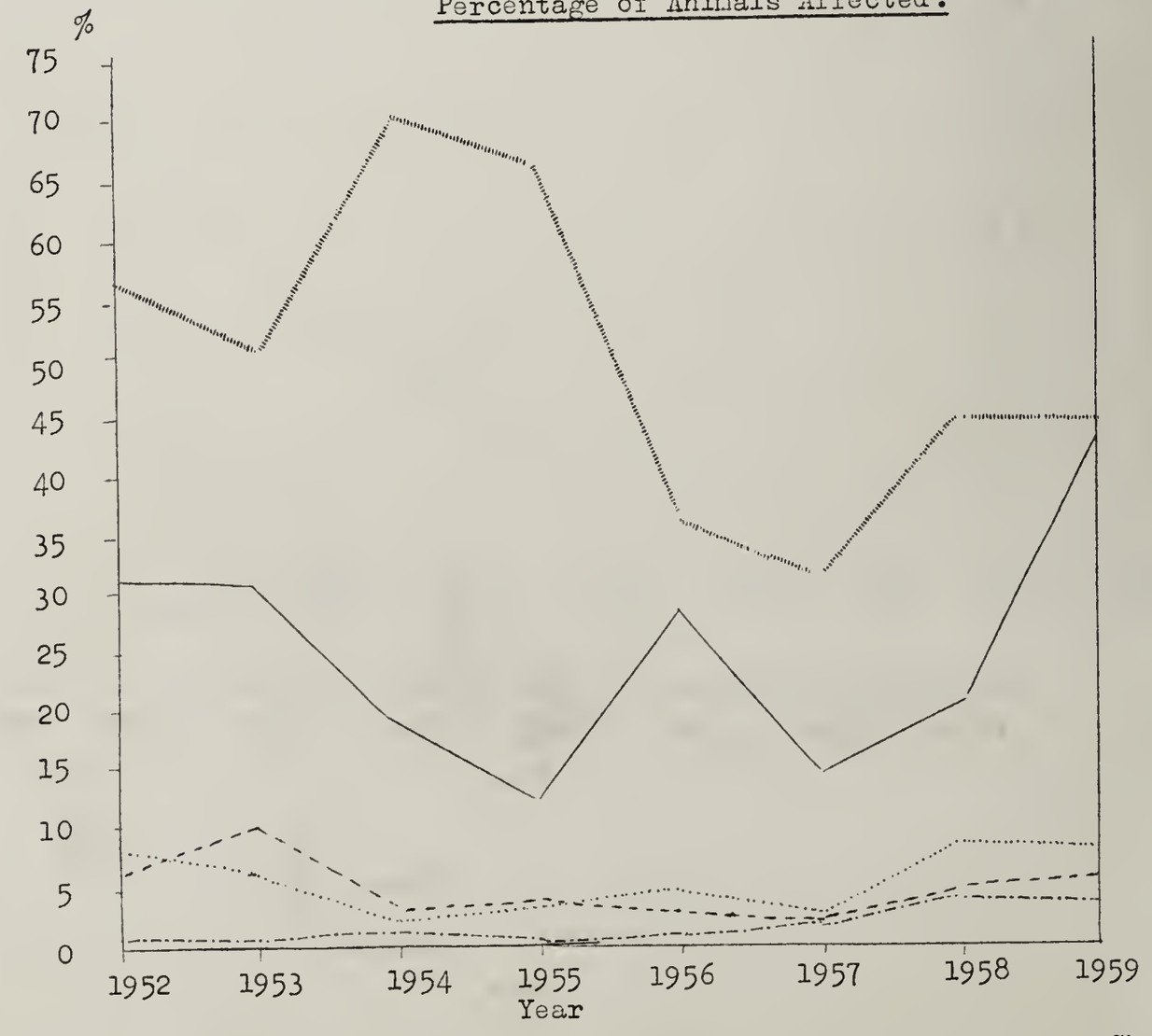
Cysticercus Bovis.

Percentage of Bovine Animals (All cattle, including cows) Affected.



All Diseases other than Tuberculosis and Cysticercus Bovis.

Percentage of Animals Affected.



(b) Inspection of Poultry & Turkeys.

The growth of the business at The Grove, Craven Arms has continued throughout the year. There, a local firm is concerned in the rearing, slaughtering, dressing and marketing of vast numbers of poultry and turkeys. An average of about 40,000 birds a week is now being handled.

During the year, new premises were erected in which turkeys are slaughtered and dressed on a new line system, much of the work being carried out by mechanical means. Additional refrigeration rooms have also been provided.

Another welcome improvement has been the provision of a pure water supply. Following representations to the firm a bore was sunk, giving an ample supply to replace the grossly polluted estate supply previously in use.

Regular routine inspections of the premises and conditions generally are made, but with the vast numbers of birds being dealt with, there is no possibility of routine inspection of the poultry being carried out.

It is felt that in the latter direction more needs to be done. It is understood that the matter is now being considered nationally and that some guidance, or instructions, may be forthcoming from the Ministry of Health in the near future.

There is another smaller depot for turkeys near Ashford Carbonell.

(c) Food Hygiene.

1. Food Hygiene Regulations.

It was found that at a further 24 premises compliance in all respects had been made. This gives a total of 80 premises complying in all respects since the Regulations came into force. In addition, much work had been carried out at many other premises.

It was found however, that at a few public houses none of the required works had been done.

At schools under the control of the Shropshire Education Committee a good deal of work has been carried out throughout the year, but some still remains to be completed.

Below is a summary of the main works carried out.

Internal decoration to part or the whole of the premises	28
Wash hand basins fitted, including provision of constant hot and cold water, trapped waste pipe, soap, towels and nailbrush	23
Structural alterations or repairs	21
Sinks fitted and supplied with constant water supply and trapped waste	14
First aid materials	12
Hot water supplied to existing fittings	12
Minor items including flyproofing, provision of towels etc.	10
Alterations to existing drainage systems or new drainage provided	7
Provision of ventilation of food room	6
Screening of open food to prevent risk of contamination	3
Cupboards for storage of clothes not used during working hours	1

It is now over three years since the Food Hygiene Regulations came into force and although most of the food premises in the district were visited by the end of 1957, to date only eighty comply in all respects. In many cases, the Inspectors have done much informal work to obtain compliance, but it does seem that in some cases stronger action may have to be taken. There seems in many cases to be a slow appreciation of the need for a satisfactory standard of hygiene in food premises. Some weaknesses in the Regulations have been found, but the main practical trouble is often a lack of appreciation of the principles involved. For example, the Regulations require the provision of wash hand basins with hot and cold water supply, soap and nailbrushes, but it is a matter of education to get many food handlers to use the equipment so provided.

During the year, following many warnings, the Council took Court action against a person running a cafe,

(a) for failure to comply with the Food Hygiene Regulations, and
(b) for failing to provide adequate lavatory accommodation.

A fine of only ten shillings was imposed under (a), but the case is to come up again in six months from the date of the hearing.

2. Food Poisoning.

No cases of food poisoning were reported during the year.

(d) Supervision of Milk Supply.

A former butchers shop in the Clee Hill area was converted into a milk store by a dairyman from Tenbury Wells. Milk is delivered there from Kidderminster and taken out for retail sale daily. The dairyman was immediately notified of unsatisfactory practices when he commenced using the store; (a) the bottled milk was left at the roadside and (b) it was left in the direct rays of the sun. These matters were dealt with by widening the gateway so that milk could be unloaded directly from the lorry into the store.

The question of non-collection of empty bottles is one which is having to be taken up with the same dealer fairly regularly. Near houses on the common land tremendous heaps of empty bottles are often found.

New Milk and Dairies Regulations were introduced during the year. These were, in the main, consolidating measures.

Licences issued for 1959 were as follows:-

To use the designation	Pasteurised	4
-do-	Sterilized	2
-do-	Tuberculin Tested	3
-do-	T.T.Pasteurised	4
-do-	T.T.Sterilised	1

Contagious Abortion.

Milk sampled from a large herd at Bromdon in July was found to be affected with brucella abortus. Sampling was carried out at the farm and milk from all 34 milking cows was examined. It was agreed by the owners of the herd that the milk should be pasteurised.

A sample of milk taken by the County Public Health Inspector was found to contain brucella abortus. The premises of the producer/retailer were visited and arrangements made for the milk to be pasteurised.

(e) Ice Cream.

A further six premises were registered for the sale of prepacked ice-cream during the year. This brought the total number of registered premises to 44.

Whilst there is little risk of the contamination of prepacked ice-cream during retail sale, kept as it always is these days in a refrigerator, a point to be borne in mind is that usually wafer biscuits are sold with the ices and these are not wrapped.

There is one manufacturer at Craven Arms who makes ice-cream by the 'cold-mix' process.

Seven ice-cream samples were taken, all of which were satisfactory.

5. General.

(a) Knackers Yards.

Both knackers yards in the district have continued in business during the year. As both were rebuilt a few years ago when the Council adopted new Byelaws, it was found that the new Regulations called for little work to be done to give full compliance.

Regular visits have been made during the year and it was found that the premises were kept in a satisfactory condition.

Trouble was discovered regarding the transport of offals and other waste materials from the yards. Liquid matter was found tobe dripping on to the public highway. This matter was taken up strongly with the owners of the lorry on the instructions of the Public Health Committee and no further trouble has been discovered.

(b) National Assistance Act, 1948 - Section 47.

An old lady was found to be suffering from chronic disease and not receiving proper care and attention. Her two nieces at first would not agree to their Aunt being removed to Hospital, but although a certificate for removal to Hospital had to be obtained no actual difficulty was encountered.

Unfortunately, the old lady died after being in Hospital only a few weeks.

(c) Air Pollution.

It was noticed that a chimney at a factory in the eastern part of the district was emitting black smoke. The Manager was approached and although the boiler manufacturers were consulted, the trouble was never satisfactorily overcome up to the time the factory closed in the Autumn of 1959.

No other troubles were experienced during the year.

(d) Typhoid Fever.

As was reported to the Public Health Committee, a case of typhoid fever occurred at Hope Bagot. A man was taken to Hospital and after tests it was confirmed that he was suffering from typhoid.

Visits were made and water and faeces samples taken, swabs were deposited in the sewerage system and disinfection was carried out. The Medical Officer of Health, Dr. William Hall, and Dr. A.C.Jones, Head of the Public Health Laboratory, Shrewsbury also visited to carry out blood tests.

After much investigation it was found that the Russian born cook was a carrier of the disease and it is reasonable to assume that she had been a carrier for many years. However, due to her exceptional cleanliness, both in her work and personal habits, she had not, so far as is known, infected any other person. She was taken to hospital for treatment and it is understood that she will not be returning to Hope Bagot.

It was found that water from the stream running through the grounds into which the sewage effluent flowed, was used by some people for household purposes. Warnings were given and in two cases water supply systems were altered so that the stream water would no longer be used.

Investigations had tobe made in Herefordshire and Warwickshire by the authorities of those areas to trace possible contacts.

(e) Illness.

The Headmaster of a school in the district got in touch with the Department regarding a number of children who had been away with stomach illnesses for single days. All came from one small community. Investigations were carried out into the water supply, sanitary arrangements and sewage disposal. No definite cause of illness was found, but a possible cause was a fly borne infection of some sort.

(f) Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956.

The duties of local authorities under this Act, which has now been in operation for several years, are to require that suitable and sufficient sanitary conveniences are provided, and properly maintained, for workers on farms.

Recently, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food wrote to enquire what progress is being made over a survey of farms and what action is being taken under the Act.

So far, with the staff available, it has not been possible to undertake any survey work and little is known about existing conditions.

SECTION D.

Prevalence of Infectious Disease.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

The following cases were notified during the year ended 31st December, 1959:-

Scarlet Fever	- 23	Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	- 5
Measles	- 167	Tuberculosis (Non-Respiratory)	- 1
Whooping Cough	- 9	Dysentery	- 1
Acute Pneumonia	- 16	Erysipelas	- 1
Food Poisoning	- 1	Typhoid	- 1

The total number of notifications received was 225 compared with a total of 133 during 1958.

Diphtheria.

There have been no cases of this condition in the District during the last sixteen years.

Poliomyelitis.

No cases of Paralytic Poliomyelitis were reported.

Typhoid.

Reference has been made in Section C to the one case notified during the year.

Tuberculosis.

Five cases of Respiratory Tuberculosis and one case of Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis were notified during the year, and there were no deaths under this heading.

Particulars of the 66 cases remaining on the Tuberculosis Register on 31st December, 1959 are as follows:-

	Respiratory Tuberculosis	Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis
Male	25	9
Female	23	9
Total.....	48	18

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1959.

Cause	Male	Female	Total
Diseases of Heart & Circulatory System	37	28	65
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	13	10	23
Malignant Diseases	11	15	26
Bronchitis	9	4	13
Pneumonia	7	4	11
Motor Vehicle Accidents	-	-	-
All other Accidents	3	-	3
Suicide	3	1	4
Respiratory Tuberculosis	-	-	-
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis	-	-	-
Other causes	7	14	21
Total	90	76	166

Deaths from Cancer (all forms):-

		Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Population
Ludlow Rural District	-	26	1.90
County of Salop	-	552	1.84

APPENDIX.

Factories Act, 1937 to 1959.

1. Inspections for purpose of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	15	2	1	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	71	7	3	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	-	-	-	-
Total.....	86	9	4	-

Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.5)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient.	1	-	-	1	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	-	-	1	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (Not including offences relating to out-workers)	-	-	-	-	-
Total.....	4	1	-	2	-